

Selectmen's Minutes
08 March 1999
7:00pm

The regularly scheduled Selectmen's meeting was called to order by the Allen Hines, at 7:00pm. Those present included Jack Steiner, George Lagassa (Selectmen), and Russell McAllister (Town Administrator).

The Selectmen reviewed the meeting minutes of January 25th. Mr. Lagassa made the motion to accept the regular and non-public minutes of February 8th. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. Mr. Steiner made the motion to accept the regular minutes of February 22nd. Mr. Hines seconded the motion. Both motions were unanimous and so moved.

The selectmen reviewed correspondence and/or signed:

1. Abatement - John & Priscilla Patrick (\$577.26)
2. Yield Tax Warrant - David Peck / Dick Wollmar / Jane Robie
3. Veterans Credit - Robert Turner / Freida O'Connor
4. Elderly Exemption - Wendell O'Connor (40k)
5. Abatement Settlement Agreements - Schoettler / Yeaton / Thaden
6. Executive Committee - Coakley minutes
7. NHH v Ladd Carmen - Rockingham Superior Court 04/29/99 10am
8. NHMA - PLT Insurance Proposal

Town Administrator's Report

The TA briefed the Board on the status on the Ladd Carmen v. NHH issue. A superior court date of 4/29 was scheduled for the hearing. The TA noted that he would be in attendance.

The Town's insurance carrier, Great American, had recently completed a safety inspection of the Town buildings. The letter mentioned that the masonry on the front of the Fire Department building was showing signs of structural deficiency. The letter from Great American sought a reply from the Town regarding any action plans to correct the problem. It was noted that the master plan and the capital improvement plan (CIP) were being developed to address capital facilities maintenance items.

The TA also briefed the Board on an insurance quote from the NHMA's Property Liability Trust (PLT). The quote outlined the differences between the Town's current insurance policy and that offered by PLT. The PLT operated much the same way as Worker's Compensation. Good safety and claims records history on the part of the Town will lead to lower rates and refunds. The TA explained that the Board could meet with a representative of PLT to ask questions and explain the various insurance differences in the plans currently before the Board. The Board directed the TA to schedule a meeting with a representative from the PLT.

Police Training Report

Chief Michael Maloney briefed the Board on the results of the hiring report for another officer, which brings the department complement up to 9 officers. The report looked into the cost difference between hiring the ninth officer from a field of part-timer officers currently working within the department versus going outside the department. Chief Maloney explained that hiring within the department would cost approximately \$7,600 because the background checks, physicals and psychological testing had already been done and equipment had also been furnished. The \$7,600 represented labor and police academy costs. Hiring an officer from outside of the department would involve costs of \$6,700 for various physical & psychological testing, equipment, advertising costs associated with announcing the position in the newspapers. Labor costs of approximately \$8,000 to hire a full-time certified officer would represent an additional cost. Therefore, hiring an officer outside of the department would involve a cost of over \$14,000 versus \$7,600 for hiring an officer from within. The Board agreed that hiring from within was most cost

effective. The Board directed Chief Maloney to move ahead with the in-house hiring process. The Chief noted that each applicant was still required to complete a project, undergo an oral board and formal interview process. Officers from outside of the NHH Department would comprise the interview Board and they would submit their findings and recommendations to the Department. The use of an outside Board insured an unbiased appraisal of each candidate.

Discussion of Electronic Systems Policy

It was that the electronic systems policy was designed to regulate the use of Town owned computers, telephones and fax machines by employees. The policy distinguished the difference between private and legitimate business use and the loading of unauthorized software on the Town's local area network (LAN). Mr. Steiner made the motion to adopt the electronic systems policy. Mr. Lagassa seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous and the policy was adopted.

Request for Qualifications Review

The Board next reviewed the RFQ submissions from appraisal firms for the public utility appraisal of Hampton Water Works. The Board opened four RFQ's from:

1. BH LeyMaster
2. Brooks Valuation
3. Northeast Appraisal Services
4. Giroux & Company / Earth Tech

Mr. Lagassa explained that he had compiled a list of 37-38 public utility appraisal companies from the American Association of Appraisers and that each firm was sent a request for qualifications. The Board agreed that the firms should be invited to a formal interview with both the Board of Selectmen and Water Commissioners. The TA suggested the week of March 22-26 to schedule interviews with the appraisal firms. The Board and the Water Commissioners present at the meeting agreed.

Selectmen Issues

Mr. Steiner asked Henry Mixer (Chair, Conservation Commission) to brief the Board as well as those in attendance on the status of the Little River Salt Marsh Restoration Project. Mr. Mixer noted that the project took about 5 years of hard work to get it off the ground. The project goals were two-fold. The first goal was to re-introduce tidal flushing in the Salt Marsh. Salt water flushing would eliminate a lot of fresh water plant species that had invaded the marsh and had, as a consequence, allowed greater sedimentation to occur within the marsh. The second goal was to alleviate the flooding along Route 1A and Appledore Avenue. The flooding was due to a combination of greater sedimentation in the marsh and the constriction of the tidal flow by too small a culvert under Route 1A. The size of the culvert did not allow the salt marsh to drain quickly enough. The normal tidal action would flush out the marsh and prevent sedimentation from occurring, which in turn would restrict the growth of fresh water plant species in the salt marsh, and ultimately provide better drainage in the marsh. Mr. Mixer described part of the grant work completed to date with the landowner identification project that involved survey work by James Verra and Associates. Maps were shown to the Board, which identified property and ownership of lands, that abutted the marsh. The Army Corps of Engineers had provided an analysis on the flooding within the salt marsh and presented possible corrective action that could be taken to alleviate the flooding. The National Conservation and Resource Service had, with the staff engineers worked-up various construction methods that would re-introduce tidal flushing and alleviate flooding. Work that needed to be performed included some dredging of the marsh, replacement of the culvert under Route 1A with a larger culvert, replacement of the culvert under Appledore Avenue. Other co-operators in the project included US Fish & Wildlife, the Office of State Planning and the Department of Transportation, and the Town. Mr. Mixer commented that a final

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report by the Army Corps will be forthcoming and then distributed to individuals whose property abutted the marsh.

Questions & Comments

Lucille Ellingwood noted that the Hampton Union had incorrectly listed an address concerning septic issues.

There being no further business to come before the Board the public meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.

Respectfully,

Russell McAllister
Town Administrator